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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

AHN, SANGWOO

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2166

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/675,243	Applicant(s) KALUCHA ET AL.	
	Examiner Sangwoo Ahn	Art Unit 2166	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 9, 14, 16, 18, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As per claims 9, 14, and 16, if the trademark or trade name (e.g. Outlook, PowerPoint, Excel, Word, etc.) is used in a claim as a limitation to identify or describe a particular material or product, the claim does not comply with the requirements of the 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Ex parte Simpson, 218 USPQ 1020 (Bd. App. 1982).

The claim scope is uncertain since the trademark or trade name cannot be used properly to identify any particular material or product. In fact, the value of a trademark would be lost to the extent that it became descriptive of a product, rather than used as an identification of a source or origin of a product. Thus, the use of a trademark or trade name in a claim to identify or describe a material or product would not only render a claim indefinite, but would also constitute an improper use of the trademark or trade name. See MPEP 2173.05(u).

As per claims 18, 19, and 20, they recite the limitation "the plurality of users" in step (A). There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1 – 16, and 18 – 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication Number 2004/0001103 issued to Kevin V. Fliess et al (hereinafter “Fliess”).

As per claim 1, Fliess discloses,

In a computer-implemented system, a method for group collaboration through associative filing, in projects, of electronic information including at least one of structured and unstructured electronic data, documentation, and other information, cooperative with native applications that manipulate items comprising the electronic information (Figure 3: Enterprise Base Systems include various application services, Figure 4: Mail/File System, Figure 8: Word document and PowerPoint presentation links, et seq.), said group collaboration method comprising at least one of sequential, non-sequential, and sequence independent steps of:

(A) storing at least one project of a plurality of projects, the project referencing a plurality of items (paragraph 37 lines 7 – 10, Figures 8 – 11, et seq.);

(B) associating at least one team having at least one member with the at least one project (Figures 8 – 11: Project Manager leads a team of members);

(C) assigning at least one of a plurality of users as the at least one member of the at least one team (Figure 11: team assignment, Figure 18: Michelle Crow is the user and the member of the team, et seq.);

(D) storing the at least one team in association with the at least one project (Figures 8 – 11, and 18); and

(E) displaying information characterizing the at least one project and the at least one team associated therewith (Figures 8 – 11, and 18).

As per claim 2, Fliess discloses,

the project being assigned to one of a plurality of project types (Figures 9, 10, and 14, et seq.), each of the project types being associated with at least a portion of the plurality of users (associated with project manager), the users assigned as the at least one member of the at least one team being limited to the at least a portion of the plurality of users associated with the project type assigned to the at least one project.

As per claim 3, Fliess discloses,

associating at least one functionality, task, job or role with the at least one of the plurality of users assigned to the at least one team (Figure 18, et seq.).

As per claim 4, Fliess discloses,

the project being assigned to one of a plurality of project types (Figures 9, 10, and 14, et seq.), each functionality, task, job or role of each of the project types being associated with at least a portion of the plurality of users, the users assigned to the at

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least one functionality, task, job or role of the at least one team being limited to the at least a portion of the plurality of users associated with the at least one functionality, task, job or role of the project type assigned to the at least one project (Figure 18, et seq.).

As per claim 5, Fliess discloses,

redefining the at least one member assigned to the at least one team, wherein redefining further comprises at least one of: removing at least one user from the at least one team, assigning at least one user as the at least one member of the at least one team, and reassigning at least one user in at least one functionality, task, job or role associated with the at least one team (Figure 10 element 1030, Figure 11).

As per claim 6, Fliess discloses,

the at least one functionality, task, job or role includes at least one of: a project team member, an internal team member, an external team member, a project owner, and a user-defined role (Figure 18, et seq.).

As per claim 7, Fliess discloses,

redefining the at least one member assigned to the at least one team (Figure 10 element 1030, Figure 11, et seq.).

As per claim 8, Fliess discloses,

the plurality of users are selected from items in cooperation with at least one native application associated therewith to provide contact information for at least a portion of the plurality of users (Figure 11 element 1150, et seq.).

As per claim 9, Fliess discloses,

the native application includes at least one of: e-mail, an address book, and Outlook Contacts (Figure 8: Word and PowerPoint file links indicate native application associated therewith, Figure 11: Profile could be a part of an address book, et seq.).

As per claim 10, Fliess discloses,

at least one of selecting a project and listing the plurality of items in the project (Figure 8: a project has been selected and a list of Word and PowerPoint files is shown as a list of items, et seq.), and responsive to a selection of at least one of the plurality of items, displaying information characterizing the item, via a native application cooperating therewith (Figure 8: Links to Word and PowerPoint files lead to Word/PowerPoint interface, et seq.).

As per claim 11, Fliess discloses,

the at least one user being associated with a plurality of teams on a plurality of projects (Figure 18, et seq.).

As per claim 12, Fliess discloses,

transmitting a message to at least a portion of the at least one member associated with the at least one project (Figure 18: Alerts & Notifications, et seq.).

As per claim 13, Fliess discloses,

notifying at least a portion of the users assigned to the at least one team of changes to the at least one project associated with the at least one team (Figure 18: Alerts & Notifications, et seq.).

As per claim 14, Fliess discloses,

the at least one item is one of: a communication, a document, a transaction, an e-mail, a task, a meeting, a contact, a message, an image, music, Outlook Notes, video, a multimedia file, an other native application content, and a project (Figure 8: Word and PowerPoint document/file, et seq.).

As per claim 15, Fliess discloses,

the document is at least one of: a text document, an image document, a resolved universal resource locator (URL), a bitmap document, and a digitized document (Figure 8: Word document, et seq.).

As per claim 16, Fliess discloses,

the at least one native application includes at least one of: Outlook®, PowerPoint®, Excel®, Word®, Windows® Explorer®, Internet Explorer®, Adobe Acrobat®, and WinZip®; wherein a user interface for the at least one native application includes an extension to act on items and help information for acting on items; and wherein a toolbar for the at least one native application includes an extension to act on items (Figure 8: Links to Word and PowerPoint files lead to Word/PowerPoint interface, et seq.).

As per claim 18, Fliess discloses,

In a computer-implemented system, a method for group collaboration through associative filing, in project, of electronic information including at least one of structured and unstructured electronic data, documentation, and other information, cooperative with native applications that manipulates items comprising the electronic information (Figure 3: Enterprise Base Systems include various application services, Figure 4:

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Mail/File System, Figure 8: Word document and PowerPoint presentation links, et seq.), said group collaboration method comprising at least one of the sequential, non-sequential, and sequence independent steps of:

(A) storing at least one project of a plurality of projects, the project referencing a plurality of items, the project being assigned to one of a plurality of project types, and each of the project types being associated with at least a portion of the plurality of users (paragraph 37 lines 7 – 10, Figures 8 – 11, 14, and 18);

(B) associating at least one team having at least one member with the at least one project (Figure 8 and 10: project manager);

(C) assigning at least one of a plurality of users as the at least one member of the at least one team, the users assigned as members of the at least one team being limited to the at least a portion of the plurality of users associated with the project type assigned to the at least one project (Figures 8 and 10, et seq.);

(D) storing the at least one item in association with the at least one project (Figure 10: Attachments);

(E) displaying information characterizing the at least one project and the at least one team associated therewith (Figure 8, et seq.);

(F) redefining the at least one member assigned to the at least one team (Figures 10 and 11: Assign); and

(G) at least one of selecting a project and listing the plurality of items in the project (Figure 8: a project has been selected and a list of Word and PowerPoint files is shown as a list of items, et seq.), and responsive to a selection of at least one of the

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plurality of items, displaying information characterizing the item, via a native application cooperating therewith (Figure 8: Links to Word and PowerPoint files lead to Word/PowerPoint interface, et seq.).

Claims 19 and 20 are essentially the same as claim 18 except they set forth the limitations as "a system" and "a computer-readable medium", rather than "a method". Therefore, claims 19 and 20 are rejected based on the same rationale discussed in claim 18 rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fliess in view of International Publication Number WO 99/22321 issued to Gregory John Dewar (hereinafter "Dewar").

As per claim 17, Fliess discloses,

the at least one project is assigned to one of a plurality of project types, wherein at least two items of the plurality of items have different corresponding native applications; associating the at least one item with the at least one project, displaying information characterizing the at least one project and the at least one item associated therewith, selecting the at least one item thereof and opening the at least one item in

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the native application corresponding thereto (Figure 8, et seq. (discussed in detail under claim 18 rejection).

Fliess does not explicitly disclose a plurality of classes are associated with a plurality of items and at least one keyword is determined for at least one class, the determined at least one keyword is associated with the at least one class for at least one item.

However, Dewar discloses a plurality of classes are associated with a plurality of items (page 2 line 22, et seq.) and at least one keyword is determined for at least one class, the determined at least one keyword is associated with the at least one class for at least one item (Figure 5, page 3 lines 6 – 14, et seq.). It would have been obvious to combine the two references because Dewar's keyword assignment would have enabled Fliess system to provide search capabilities and means for linking information and tasks related to each project (filing arrangement under relevant information classes) as indicated by Dewar in his disclosure. Additionally, the combination of the two would have enabled the overall system to invoke an appropriate application program when an item in an information class is to be created or selected.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Publication Number 2003/0135565 issued to Julio Estrada discloses a system and method for providing an electronic mail application with integrated collaborative space management. A user may use an electronic mail application to create a project that enabled collaboration with a plurality of users.

U.S. Publication Number 2003/0046134 issued to Harry A. Frolick discloses a web-based project management system that supports a universally accessible, web-based, shared member workspace for a number of project team members to collaborate on one or more projects.

U.S. Patent Number 6,684,212 issued to Susan Day et al discloses a system and method for providing information and data management and sharing of data between diverse project team members.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sangwoo Ahn whose telephone number is (571)272-5626. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain Alam can be reached on (571) 272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Sangwoo Ahn
Patent Examiner
AU 2166

4/5/2006 SW



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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER